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The author has done his work well ; he is cautious in drawing conclusions, his style leaves nothing to be desired, and he lets the letters tell their own story as far as possible. The book, especially in the 161 sample letters it contains, gives information on many features of economic life in the thirteenth century, notably about the fairs, the kinds of money in use, and the residence and rank of the merchants that were prominent in Flemish trade ; some light is given on the relation of the nobility and the church to the commercial life of the time and on the conditions of landholding in the cities. The book is thoroughly indexed.

F. R. CLOW.

La main d'oeuvre industrielle dans l'ancienne Grèce. Par PAUL GUIRAUD. Bibliothèque de la Faculté des Lettres. Paris : Felix Alcan, 1900. 8vo, pp. 212.

THE economic features of the past have of late been studied with profit both in the extension of knowledge of past epochs and in comprehension of our own age. Some of the latest German scholars wish to picture the past in lifelike colors and attempt to explore the unknown by means of the known. Others prefer, for the purpose of illustrating a certain feature of economic life, for instance, to employ the safer method of bringing before us all that the original authorities contain upon the subject, letting these instances speak for themselves and the reader draw his conclusions as he proceeds. To this last class of investigators Professor Guiraud belongs. His book is rather a careful series of instances drawn from the sources and placed in such a relation as to make a pleasant narrative, rather than any attempt to present new ideas by means of interpretation or special suggestion. In twelve chapters somewhat crowded with incidents to illustrate the industrial life of ancient Greece, Professor Guiraud brings before us the three classes engaged in industry of every kind, the free, the freed, and the slaves. The author shows conclusively that Greece possessed an extensive industry depending to some extent upon slave labor, but more upon the skill and ardor of the free and the freedman, who took to the crafts as his natural opportunity for earning a living. A large part in the industrial and commercial life, especially in Athens, was played by the alien element, and we are inclined to agree with the author that to them should be attributed more importance in the

development of Greek commercial life than is usually granted them. Professor Guiraud treats of the early (prehistoric and Homeric) periods and the three classes of artisans separately, and his book has accordingly much information also for one interested in the social questions of ancient Greece. Athens, as the city whose records are most complete gives the larger portion of instances that go to show the character and extent of industrial labor. In the beginning, the pre-Homeric and the Homeric age, oriental influence was necessarily considerable in those parts of Greece open to commerce from the East and the opposite coast. But native workmanship seems to have asserted itself at an early date. In the small country of Greece with its numerous independent communities there was from time immemorial no trace of caste system or guilds such as were natural to the Eastern peoples. A son followed his father's calling from desire not from compulsion. Perhaps for this reason Greek workmanship early reached a higher average of excellence and intelligent treatment of the material than is seen in the larger centers of culture. As a result of her thrifty and energetic population Athens of all Greek cities soon became a leader in certain kinds of industry. But Greece, as a whole, must have been a beehive of activity in which free labor bore its liberal share. Otherwise it is impossible to see how an increasing population, the emergencies of war, trade, and colonization could be provided for. Athens alone had a large fleet to maintain and colonies to supply. According to Guiraud, the Greeks never held manual labor in contempt; in fact idleness seems to have been generally looked upon with disfavor as fostering evils that a small self-dependent community could not easily brook. The tyrants always managed to give the laboring classes plenty of work and thus kept them content, and in Athens the legislation of Solon made it a moral obligation of every citizen to teach his son a trade. As Thucydides has it, to be poor was not the worst, but to do nothing towards one's improvement. In this matter Sparta was, of course, an exception, unless one considers military training a craft to be mastered like another. In Athens the popular assembly was largely made up of the small artisans and tradesmen who thus counteracted by political influence the lack of social prestige, in which the rich landowners and aristocrats might look upon them as being deficient. Only in later times, when philosophy came to have a molding influence upon people's view of life and developed the doctrine of aristocratic leisure as necessary for statesmanship, were the

workmen, tradespeople, and small manufacturers, whose professional success was the chief aim of their life, looked down upon as belonging to an uncouth multitude born to work and provide but not to think or rule. On a small scale division of labor seems to have been practiced, separate articles being made and sold by separate dealers, one baker (to take the most homely example) having only pastry, another only bread. It is not strange that this should be noticed by the author, inasmuch as he has attempted to make his picture of Greek industrial life as complete as possible; but the fact is not remarkable in a society like that of Athens or Corinth or any larger trading city where the people were altogether dependent upon their wits and inventiveness, and where the close neighborhood of Asia Minor must soon have created taste for refinement and specialization. Any harbor city in this respect is always a generation ahead of inland towns. In this connection it may be proper to refer to the remark made on page 87, where the author mentions the fact that machinery seems to have been almost unknown to the Greeks. This seems to us a most natural thing. As long as slavery exists and there is human material to continue heavy work without great cost, machinery is not called for. The slave himself is a machine, and in some ways the most perfect one. Besides, in a country or a zone where sun and light is plentiful and the need of keeping warm does not rivet human attention on the existence of a constant fire, heat and its facilities for easing human life do not present themselves so insistently to the mind. Men live on little and there is no need of providing for a period of enforced idleness. The ancients had no need of the artificial warmth for which the northerner struggles with all his might in order to make his life equal to that of races favored by nature. And if coal mines, on which, by the way, our modern industry depends, had been discovered by them they would have been at a loss to know what to do with these treasures.

The author finishes with a chapter on the wages paid workmen, and another giving instances of the life they led. All is strictly based upon information from the sources, which comprise the literary remains, the inscriptions and whatever the excavations may have contributed to the understanding of the past. Thus the book may be said to be a well-furnished storehouse of information of a thoroughly trustworthy kind which the student of economic and social life may use with great profit. In the conclusion the author briefly sums up the results of his inquiry, and although this result is by no means

startling in its newness, it at least serves to confirm opinions already entertained and thus settles possible disputes. If we have any fault to find with the work it is that it is so peculiarly colorless in tone, without the least power to make the reader personally interested in what the author has to say. Surely one can go too far in scientific objectivity and disinterested narration. Perhaps it is a reaction against the wholly literary treatment which once prevailed, but it is to be deplored that the reaction has swept historical literature, especially within the department of research, often so chemically clean of every embellishing or even engaging feature. It is truly remarkable how the dry non-committal manner of the learned dissertation, purged of all grace and liveliness of style, has of late come to prevail even in French historical writings; the gift of style as an individual trait, which it seemed almost every educated Frenchman possessed, seems to have been choked by the dust of archives and resolutely destroyed. A modern desolation seems to dawn upon us. But whether absence of style be a distinct loss or not, the writer has succeeded in doing a reputable piece of work as concerns conscientiousness and careful analysis.

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Die florentiner Wollentuchindustrie vom vierzehnten bis zum sechzehnten Jahrhundert. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte des modernen Capitalismus. By A. DOREN. (Studien aus der florentiner Wirtschaftsgeschichte. Band I.) Stuttgart: Cotta'sche Nachfolger, 1901. 8vo, pp. xxii + 584.

THE means through which mediæval Florence won its wealth, and in winning wealth won the power to develop its intellectual and artistic greatness, was the cloth industry and cloth trade. A singularly clear and detailed description of this field of enterprise is given us by Doren in the volume whose title stands above. With masterly strokes he has drawn a picture, almost startling in distinctness, of the nature and the causes of this wealth-bringing industry; he has disclosed its potent influence in preparing the soil for the growth of a marvelous culture, in shaping the social structure and coloring the civic life of the most brilliant of Renaissance communities.

In the preparation of his monograph the author has waded deep in the contents of the Archivio di Stato di Firenze, and a brief descrip-